2.11 The Comparative Powers of the Commons and Lords, and Lords Reform: Test Pack

EDEXCEL 9PL0 · about 15 minutes

Total Marks

Name: _____ Date: ____ / ____ / _____

Answer ALL questions. Short answer questions may be brief phrases; the two levels-marked questions require full sentence answers and developed argument. The source-based 12-mark question must be answered using the material in the source provided within the prompt.

1 This question concerns the Parliament Act 1911 and its core effect on the House of Lords in relation to the Commons. State the core effect of the Parliament Act 1911 on the House of Lords.

(Total for Question 1 is 1 mark)

2 This question tests knowledge of the Commons financial privilege as used against the Lords. Explain the Commons financial privilege as used against the Lords.

(Total for Question 2 is 2 marks)

3 This question asks about a statutory innovation affecting peers introduced by the House of Lords Reform Act 2014. State four provisions or effects of the House of Lords Reform Act 2014.

(Total for Question 3 is 4 marks)

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4 This question concerns proposals to make the second chamber partly or wholly elected and one common argument in favour.

(Total for Question 4 is 4 marks)

5 This question is about the continuing role of hereditary peers and bishops in the House of Lords and one practical criticism linked to chamber size.

(Total for Question 5 is 5 marks)

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Mark scheme · 2.11 The Comparative Powers of the Commons and Lords, and Lords Reform: Test Pack

Question 1

states that the Parliament Act 1911 removed the Lords power to permanently veto most Commons bills, replacing it with a suspensive veto	**B1**

Answer: It removed the Lords power of absolute veto for most Commons bills, replacing it with a suspensive veto.

Question 2

identifies that the Lords cannot block money and finance bills passed by the Commons	**B1**
explains that this privilege ensures the elected chamber controls taxation and public spending	**B1**

Answer: The Commons has financial privilege so the Lords may not block money bills and can delay them for no more than one month; this ensures the elected chamber controls taxation and public spending.

Question 3

identifies that the 2014 Act allowed peers to retire permanently	**B1**
identifies that the 2014 Act allowed peers to be expelled for non-attendance or a serious criminal offence (accept serious misconduct)	**B1**
states that the Act did not remove the remaining hereditary peers	**B1**
states that the Act introduced other modernising measures, eg clarifying resignation procedures	**B1**

Answer: The House of Lords Reform Act 2014 allowed peers to retire permanently and provided for expulsion of peers for non-attendance or serious criminal offences; it clarified resignation procedures but did not abolish hereditary peers.

Question 4

identifies a reform proposal, eg a fully elected or part-elected House of Lords	**B1**
identifies one argument in favour, eg increased democratic legitimacy	**B1**
develops the argument, eg elected peers would have an electoral mandate making scrutiny more democratic	**B1**
offers a brief example or consequence, eg could reduce public criticism of an unelected chamber	**B1**

Answer: A common reform proposal is to replace the Lords with a fully elected chamber or to make it partly elected. An argument in favour is increased democratic legitimacy, since elected peers would hold a popular mandate which could make their legislative scrutiny and vetoes more politically defensible and reduce criticism of an unelected chamber.

Question 5

states that 92 hereditary peers remain as a result of the 1999 compromise	**B1**
states that 26 bishops of the Church of England sit as Lords Spiritual	**B1**
identifies the criticism that the Lords is very large, with around 800 peers as of recent years	**B1**
explains a practical problem caused by size, eg difficulties in committee allocation, cost, or public confidence	**B1**
links how hereditary and ecclesiastical membership feed into size and questions of representativeness	**B1**

Answer: The House still contains 92 hereditary peers retained after the 1999 reforms and 26 bishops (Lords Spiritual) from the Church of England. A frequent practical criticism is the chamber's large size, often around 800 peers in recent years, which causes problems for committee allocation, administrative cost, and public confidence in the chamber's legitimacy; the presence of hereditary peers and bishops contributes to debates about representativeness and appropriateness of membership.

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